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Policy Defense

Bundy Says Errors Lie In Execution

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (UPI) — The President's special assistant for national security says the Kennedy administration's most serious mistakes have been in carrying out policy, not in deciding it.

McGeorge Bundy, often named as one of the key figures in setting the ill-fated Cuban invasion policy this spring, addressed a Harvard alumni gathering Wednesday. He is former dean of Harvard's faculty of arts and sciences.

Concedes Own Blame

"Much of the most serious mistakes which have been made—and in which I've had a part in the last five months—have not been in making a choice between two or three different possible policies," Bundy said.

He said failures were due more to the "quality" of the execution and the people carrying out the policy. "Once you decide a policy you must then transmit it to the people taking part, who may have other aims," Bundy said.

Bundy, one of a three-man panel including Robert S. Bowie, director of Harvard's Center for International Affairs, and Robert Amory Jr., deputy director of intelligence in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Bowie and Bundy agreed that the Secretary of State should be the President's chief foreign policy adviser. Bundy said he believed the Kennedy administration was "moving in this direction."

Amory said the batting average of CIA in the past 10 years had been good in giving the nation warning of coming events.

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